

Americans shrug off searing heat to celebrate Fourth of July with parades, cookouts and fireworks

By DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

The burgers aren't the only things sizzling this Fourth of July: Millions of people are under heat warnings as large numbers of Americans traveled to toast their nation's birth with parades, cookouts and fiery splashes of colors against the evening sky.

Travel records are projected to fall with people already jamming airports and crowding highways ahead of the Fourth of July to get to their destinations. Across the West, meanwhile, residents were dealing with stifling heat as the National Weather Service warned of a "significant and extremely dangerous" heat wave across much of the region.

Fireworks a staple for the holiday were expected to reach an all-time high with an untold number of backyard displays in addition to 16,000 professional shows lighting up the horizon from sea to shining sea.

"This is how we celebrate. It's the bombs bursting in air. It's the rockets' red glare. That's how people show their pride and patriotism," said Julie Heckman of the American Pyrotechnics Association.

All signs pointed to big celebrations: The Transportation Security Administration reported that a record-breaking nearly 3 million people traveled through airports in a



The Vermont Symphony Orchestra performs as fireworks filled the air during the "Symphony of Stars" as part of the 2024 Vermont Symphony Orchestra Summer Festival Tour in Grafton, Vt., on Wednesday, July 3, 2024.

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Continued from front

nearly 3 million people traveled through airports in a single day last week, and that figure is expected to be broken this week. And AAA projected that 60.6 million people will travel by car during the holiday period. Part of the boost was attributed to easing inflation, though many Americans remain concerned about the economy.

On the much of the West Coast, residents were advised to take precautions to avoid overheating on the holiday.

Temperatures were expected to top 100 degrees (38 degrees Celsius) across both coastal and inland areas of California, with heat spreading into the Pacific Northwest.

Some spots in the desert Southwest were expecting temperatures topping 120 degrees (49 degrees Celsius). Hot, muggy conditions also permeated the Deep South and Middle Atlantic.

The Northern California city of Oroville's annual fire. □



Eight-year-old Molly Perkins, third from left, joins fellow American Heritage Girls members in riding on a float during the Colorado 4th at Firestone parade to mark the Independence Day holiday Thursday, July 4, 2024, in Firestone, Colo.

Associated Press

House Democrat is proposing a constitutional amendment to reverse Supreme Court's immunity decision

By **LISA MASCARO**
AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — A leading House Democrat is preparing a constitutional amendment in response to the Supreme Court's landmark immunity ruling, seeking to reverse the decision "and ensure that no president is above the law."

Rep. Joseph Morelle of New York, the top Democrat on the House Administration Committee, sent a letter to colleagues informing them of his intent to file the resolution, which would kickstart what's traditionally a cumbersome amendment process.

"This amendment will do what SCOTUS failed to do: prioritize our democracy," Morelle said in a statement to AP.

In referring to Donald Trump, Morelle said the former president "must be held accountable for his decisions."

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and stand with me on the front line to protect our democracy."

It's the most significant legislative response yet to the



Rep. Joe Morelle, D-N.Y., questions a witness during a Committee on House Administration hearing about noncitizen voting in U.S. elections on Capitol Hill, May 16, 2024 in Washington.

Associated Press

decision this week from the court's conservative majority, which stunned Washington and drew a sharp dissent from the court's liberal justices warning of the perils to democracy, particularly as Trump seeks a return to the White House. Still, the effort stands almost no chance of succeeding in this Congress.

Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Roberts said that presidents have broad immunity from criminal prosecution for actions taken within their official duties a decision that throws into doubt the Justice Department's cases against Trump, including his efforts to overturn the 2020 election.

Trump and his allies celebrated the ruling by the court, which includes three justices appointed by the former president, and his legal team immediately moved to delay sentencing for his felony conviction in an unrelated hush money case in New York state court that had been scheduled for next week. The judge agreed to push off the sentencing until fall. The outcome all but ensures the federal cases against Trump will not be resolved before the November election when he faces a likely rematch with President Joe Biden.

While the constitutional amendment process would likely take years, and in fact may never come to fruition, supporters believe it is the most surefire way, even beyond a new law, to enshrine the norm that presidents can face consequences for their actions.

"This amendment will guarantee that no public officer of the United States including the president is able to evade the accountability that any other American would face for violating our laws," Morelle wrote in

a letter to colleagues this week.

He quoted from Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who led the dissent, and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson who joined in dissenting, before summing up his in his own words: "Presidents are citizens, not tyrants."

Another Democrat, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, said Monday she planned to file articles of impeachment against the justices over the ruling, which she said represents "an assault on American democracy." "It is up to Congress to defend our nation from this authoritarian capture," Ocasio-Cortez said on social media. "I intend on filing articles of impeachment upon our return."

Congress can launch the constitutional amendment process and then send it to the states for ratification. Such a resolution takes a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate, which is highly unlikely at this time of divided government, and ratification by three-fourths of the states.

So far, there have been 27 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. □

Biden heads into a make-or-break stretch for his imperiled presidential campaign

By COLLEEN LONG and ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Thursday opened a critical stretch in his effort to salvage his imperiled reelection campaign, arguing the stakes extend far beyond his own political prospects to the future of the country's economy and democracy itself.

There is a growing sense that Biden may have just days to make a persuasive case that he is fit for office before Democratic support for him completely evaporates in the aftermath of his disastrous debate performance last week against Republican Donald Trump. In an interview with a Wisconsin radio station that aired Thursday, Biden said, "The stakes are really high. I know you know this. For democracy, for freedom ... our economy, they're all on the line." He added: "The president is the most powerful office in the world. But we need someone with wisdom and character."



President Joe Biden arrives to speak in the Cross Hall of the White House Monday, July 1, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

The interview on the Earl Ingram Show on the Civic Media Radio Network, taped Wednesday, was the part of a media and public events blitz that the Democratic president and his staff have acknowledged as a make-or-break moment. Some financial backers were holding off or canceling upcoming

fundraisers, according to a person familiar with the plans who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss private discussions. After hosting a July Fourth evening barbecue at the White House for military families, Biden is scheduled to campaign in Wisconsin on Friday and sit for an in-

terview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos that will air as a prime-time special that night. He plans to be in Philadelphia on Sunday and hold a full news conference during the NATO summit in Washington next week. It is not a given that his campaign will survive even that long if he does not deliver a

strong showing on ABC. Discussions that were once a whisper around who should step into his place should he bow out are growing louder.

For now, Biden is not ready to walk away and he has communicated that in conversations with Democratic governors, close allies and staffers from his campaign. But time is short for a possible change. The Democratic National Committee announced weeks ago that it would hold a virtual roll call for a formal nomination before the party's national convention, which begins Aug. 19.

"I'm proud to be running for reelection as a president who's made his promises and I've kept them," Biden said in the radio interview. "I had a bad night. A bad night. I screwed up," he said of the debate, where he gave halting and convoluted answers. "But 90 minutes on stage does not erase what I've done for 3 1/2 years," he said in a different interview, with Philadelphia-area WURD Radio. □

Virginia lawmakers strike deal to repeal restrictions on military tuition program

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — After weeks of disagreement, Virginia lawmakers have reached a deal to repeal new restrictions on a program that offers free college tuition at state schools for families of military veterans who were killed or seriously disabled while on active duty. Senate Finance Chair Louise Lucas and House Appropriations Chairman Luke Torian announced late Tuesday that they plan to introduce identical legislation to repeal changes to the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program in the two-year budget that took effect on Monday. Members of the Senate and the House of Delegates will re-

turn to Richmond on July 18 to vote on the agreement. The new legislation will propose an additional \$90 million in taxpayer funds to pay for the program, in addition to the \$40 million already included in the budget. The program's costs have risen from \$12 million to \$65 million in five years. Previously, state colleges and universities have covered the costs with state funds and tuition from other students. Lucas said the new proposal would set aside \$65 million each year for the program, while the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission studies it, along with a task force appointed by Gov. Glenn Youngkin and a Senate work group. "This study and the allocation of what now

will be \$65 million per year for the program provides me with the comfort that we will not place the burden of the escalating cost of the program on other students through their tuition charges," Lucas said in a statement. To rein in the program's rising costs, the budget deal passed by the General Assembly in May restricted eligibility to associate and undergraduate degrees, required participants to apply for other forms of financial aid and tightened residency requirements. After vehement protests from military families, the House of Delegates voted last week to repeal the new restrictions, but the Senate took no action after meeting twice in two weeks to

work on the issue. Youngkin praised the agreement.

"A full, clean repeal with additional financial support for the VMSDEP program,

unencumbered by any other provisions, is great news for our military heroes, first responders, and their families," Youngkin posted on the social platform X. □



Virginia Senate President Pro Tempore, Sen. Louise Lucas, D-Portsmouth, recognizes a visitor in the gallery as she presides over the Senate, Jan 27, 2020, at the state Capitol in Richmond, Va.

Associated Press

Patrick Bertoletti of Chicago wins his first men's title at annual Nathan's hot dog eating contest.

By **SUSAN HAIGH** and **CE-DAR ATTANASIO**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Patrick Bertoletti of Chicago gobbled down 58 hot dogs to win his first men's title Thursday at the annual Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest, taking advantage of the absence of the event's biggest star. Bertoletti won in a tight, 10-minute race where the leader bounced back and forth.

The 39-year-old Bertoletti defeated 13 competitors from around the world in a test to see who can wolf down the most hot dogs in 10 minutes.

"I wasn't going to stop eating until the job was done," Bertoletti said.

Bertoletti bested his prior record of 55 hot dogs at the event, held every Independence Day on New York's Coney Island.

The reigning men's champion, Joey "Jaws" Chestnut, didn't attend the competition this year over a sponsorship tiff. Instead, Chestnut will compete against soldiers at a U.S. Army base in El Paso later in the day. Chestnut won 16 out of 17 previous competitions.

Bertoletti said he lost weight and practiced for three months with "an urgency"



Patrick Bertoletti stuffs hot dogs into his mouth during the men's division in Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest, Thursday, July 4, 2024, at Coney Island in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

Associated Press

to prepare for Thursday's event, thinking he had a good chance of winning.

"With Joey not here, I knew I had a shot," he said. "I was able to unlock something that I don't know where it came from. But I'm not complaining."

Earlier Thursday, defending champion Miki Sudo of Florida won her 10th title in the women's division.

Sudo consumed 51 hot dogs in 10 minutes and

set a new world record for women.

"I'm just happy to call this mine for another year," Sudo said after winning her 10th pink belt.

The 38-year-old dental hygiene student won last year after forcing down 39 1/2 hot dogs.

Sudo defeated 13 competitors, including 28-year-old rival Mayoi Ebihara of Japan.

Ebihara came in second

after eating 37 hot dogs in 10 minutes. She was also the runner-up in 2023. Sudo also consumed more than her partner, former Florida bodybuilder Nicholas Wehry, who ate 46 hot dogs in the men's competition.

Bertoletti's victory marks the first time the famed mustard belt has gone to someone besides Chestnut since 2015.

Thousands of fans, some wearing foam hot dog

hats, flock each year to the event held outside the original Nathan's location in Brooklyn's Coney Island, a beachfront destination with amusement parks and a carnivalesque summer culture. Rich Shea, CEO of Major League Eating, which organizes the event, noted how people still came out in droves even though Chestnut was not there.

"Just a great competitor, a great guy, a grown man, and a man who's made a choice not to be here today," he said of the popular eating champ on ESPN. "But fortunately for us, tens of thousands of people are crowding around Nathan's Famous. It's a pilgrimage every year. This is not a paid Hollywood crowd. This is excitement."

Competitors came from over a dozen states and five continents, with prospects from Brazil, Japan, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Australia and the Czech Republic vying for the coveted title and \$10,000 prize money.

Last year Chestnut, of Indiana, chewed his way to the title by downing 62 dogs and buns in 10 minutes. The record, which he set in 2021, is 76. □

2 women in Chicago and Cleveland police officer are among those killed in July Fourth shootings



Sophia Mendez delivers a poem during a Remembrance Ceremony for the victims of the 2022 Highland Park shooting, Thursday, July 4, 2024 at Edgewood Middle School in Highland Park, Ill.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

Two women in a home in Chicago, a police officer serving a warrant in Cleveland and an armed person making threats in Yellowstone National Park were among those killed in shootings on the Fourth of July, historically one of the nation's deadliest days of the year. Violence and mass shootings often increase in the summer months, with more people gathering for social events, teens out of school and hotter temperatures. Three boys, ages 8, 7 and 5, were also wounded in the shooting on Thursday

in Chicago, which police say resulted from an apparent personal dispute. The women killed were 42 and 22. Two vehicles pulled up into a neighborhood in the city's south side and multiple people got out and fired shots at the home, Deputy Chief Don Jerome said. Multiple shell casings from both a rifle and a handgun were found at the scene, he said.

The police officer killed in Cleveland was identified as Jamieson Ritter. The 27-year-old officer was part of a team dispatched to serve a man a warrant for

felonious assault around 1 a.m., police Chief Dorothy Todd said, according to local news outlets. That man was seen fleeing the home and allegedly fired a gun multiple times, striking the officer, according to Todd. Also on Thursday, in Yellowstone gunfire was exchanged between a person who authorities say had been making threats and park rangers. The shooting happened at Canyon Village, an area in the central part of the park that has a campground, lodging and a visitor center, park officials said in a statement. □

Hezbollah fires over 200 rockets into Israel after killing of senior commander

By KAREEM CHEHAYEB
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanese Hezbollah group said it launched over 200 rockets on Thursday at several military bases in Israel in retaliation for a strike that killed one of its senior commanders.

The attack by the Iran-backed militant group was one of the largest in the monthslong conflict along the Lebanon-Israel border, with tensions escalating in recent weeks.

The Israeli military said “numerous projectiles and suspicious aerial targets” had entered its territory from Lebanon, many of which it said were intercepted. It confirmed the death of one soldier in the barrage. It said about 200 “projectiles” were launched toward the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights and over 20 drones into Israeli territory, but that it had intercepted some of them.

After Hezbollah’s attack, Israel struck various towns in southern Lebanon. The Israeli military said it hit Hezbollah’s “military structures” in the southern border towns of Ramyeh and Houla.

Lebanon’s state-run Na-



Hezbollah fighters attend the funeral procession of their comrade, senior commander Mohammad Naameh Nasser, who was killed by an Israeli airstrike that hit his car in the southern coastal town of Tyre, in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, July 4, 2024.

Associated Press

tional News Agency reported that an Israeli drone strike of Houla killed at least one person. Israeli jets also broke the sound barrier over the Lebanese capital, Beirut, and other areas in the country.

Israel on Wednesday acknowledged that it had killed Mohammad Naameh Nasser, who headed one of Hezbollah’s three regional divisions in southern Lebanon, a day earlier.

Hours after the killing, Hezbollah launched scores of Katyusha rockets and Falaq rockets with heavy warheads into northern Israel and the Golan. It launched more rockets on Thursday and said it had also sent exploding drones into several bases. Israel captured the Golan, a strategic plateau, from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war in a move that is recognized by the United States but otherwise re-

jected by the international community.

Hashem Safieddine, head of Hezbollah’s Executive Council, vowed that the group will continue its retaliatory attacks, “targeting new sites they never imagined would be hit.”

“The enemy sometimes acknowledges these hits and sometimes does not, but it is certain that there have been many casualties,” he said at Nasser’s funeral.

Nasser was of great importance to Hezbollah, which said he took part in battles in conflicts in Syria and Iraq from 2011 until 2016 and fought in the group’s last war with Israel in 2006. Two other senior Hezbollah commanders have also been killed.

The U.S. and France are continuing to scramble to prevent the skirmishes from spiraling into an all-out war, which they fear could spillover across the region. Washington in its shuttle diplomatic efforts initially hoped for calm along the Lebanon-Israel border in a deal that is not linked to the war in Gaza.

However, since the U.S. has called for Hamas to agree to a cease-fire proposal presented by President Joe Biden, it has said that an end to the war in Gaza would lead to calm in Lebanon and northern Israel as well.

The relatively low-level conflict erupted shortly after the outbreak of the war in Gaza. Hezbollah says it is striking Israel in solidarity with Hamas, another Iran-allied group that ignited the war in Gaza with its Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel. □

U.S. citizen Woodland convicted of drug-related charges by Moscow court. He’s sentenced to 12.5 years

MOSCOW (AP) — Robert Woodland, a Russia-born U.S. citizen, was convicted of drug-related charges by a Moscow court and sentenced to 12 1/2 years in prison on Thursday, court officials and his lawyers said.

He was found guilty of attempted trafficking of large amounts of illegal drugs as part of an organized group, according to an online statement released by court officials, and sentenced to 12 1/2 years in a maxim security penal colony. His lawyers told reporters after the verdict was delivered Thursday that they will appeal the ruling because Woodland’s guilt

hasn’t been proven.

Lawyer Stanislav Kshevitsky also said that Woodland has been suffering from unspecified mental health issues. He didn’t provide any details, but said that the court didn’t take those issues into account.

Russian media reported that his name matches a U.S. citizen interviewed in 2020 who said he was born in the Perm region in 1991 and adopted by an American couple at age 2. He was arrested in January.

He said he traveled to Russia to find his mother and eventually met her on a TV show before deciding to move to Russia. Russian news agency Interfax has

cited court officials as saying that Woodland also holds Russian citizenship.

Arrests of Americans in Russia have become increasingly common as relations between Moscow and Washington sink to Cold War lows. Washington accuses Moscow of targeting its citizens and using them as political bargaining chips, but Russian officials insist they all broke the law. Some have been exchanged for Russians held in the U.S., while for others, the prospects of being released in a swap are less clear.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday it was aware that a U.S. citizen was sen-

tenced by a Russian court and that the embassy in Moscow was closely monitoring the case. The de-

partment, citing privacy issues, said it would have no further comment. □



U.S. citizen Robert Woodland is escorted to a court room prior to a court session on drug-related charges in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, July 4, 2024.

Associated Press

Mexico's incoming president announces top posts but her new cabinet includes familiar faces

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's incoming president announced her appointees for top posts Thursday, but hopes for a fresh approach were dashed by the re-appearance of old faces in the new cabinet. President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum announced that Rosa Icela Rodríguez, who headed outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's failed security strategy, will serve as the next interior secretary. That is Mexico's top domestic political post, responsible for handling negotiations with protesters and Mexico's 32 powerful state governors. Sheinbaum will take office Oct. 1.

As expected, Omar García Harfuch who served as Mexico City police chief when Sheinbaum was mayor was appointed to head Mexico's increasingly powerless Public Safety Department, the top law-enforcement post.

García Harfuch is credited with bringing down homicides in the capital, though



Incoming President Claudia Sheinbaum waves during a press conference where she presented members of her Cabinet in Mexico City, Thursday, June 27, 2024. Pictured from left to right: Health Secretary David Kershenobich, Internal Affairs Secretary Raquel Buenrostro, Energy Secretary Luz Elena Gonzalez, incoming President Claudia Sheinbaum, Agriculture Secretary Edna Elena Vega Rangel and Transport and Communications Secretary Jesus Antonio Esteva Medina.

Associated Press

the numbers he claims are disputed. He gained respect after he survived a dramatic 2020 drug cartel ambush that wounded him and left three other people

dead.

Sheinbaum has pledged to strip control of the National Guard, Mexico's main law enforcement agency, from the Public Safety De-

partment and turn the 117,000-member force over to the Army. García Harfuch will control little other than the country's prisons when he takes

over the job.

But it was the appointment of Rodríguez that turned heads: a very poor public speaker with no experience in campaigns or as an elected official, she breaks the long-standing practice of appointing experienced political pros often former state governors to the interior ministry post, where negotiating skills are key.

Rodríguez is also closely identified with López Obrador's "hugs not bullets" strategy of not confronting drug cartels, and militarizing law enforcement. In his six-year term, López Obrador has not been able to significantly reduce record-high levels of killings in Mexico. Sheinbaum belongs to López Obrador's Morena party and has pledged to continue all of his policies.

In June, she also asked López Obrador's Treasury Secretary, Rogelio Ramírez de la O, to stay on in the post. The job is similar to that of a finance minister, controlling spending and budgets. □

Iranian-born Norwegian man found guilty in 2022 Oslo LGBT+ festival attack, sentenced to 30 years

By JAN M. OLSEN

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — An Iranian-born Norwegian man was found guilty of terrorism on Thursday in a 2022 attack on an

LGBTQ+ festival in Oslo and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Two people were killed and nine were seriously wounded in the shooting at three locations, chiefly outside

the London Pub, a popular gay bar, on June 25, 2022. The Oslo District Court said Zaniar shot 10 rounds with a machine gun and eight shots with a handgun into the crowd. It said Matapour had sworn allegiance to the Islamic State group and "has been radicalized for several years."

His 30-year sentence was the highest penalty in Norway since terror legislation was changed in 2015.

Matapour can request parole after 20 years but can only be released if he is deemed no longer dangerous.

Prosecutor Aud Kinsarvik Gravås called it "the right outcome" and "a historically severe punishment." Matapour's lawyer, Marius Dietrichson, said it was "a severe punishment" and that they have not yet decided whether to appeal.

Espen Evjenth, who was hit by a bullet in the forehead at the London Pub, told the Norwegian news agency NTB that it was "a great relief."

Extensive video material of the attack had been presented in court. The verdict was not read in court but sent out electronically. Matapour would have the verdict read to him in prison, the court said.

Matapour was overpowered by bystanders after the attack and arrested. Following the attack, a Pride parade was canceled, with police saying they could not guarantee security.

The shooting shocked Norway, which has a relatively low crime rate but has experienced a series of "lone wolf" attacks by individuals in recent decades, including one of the worst

mass shootings in Europe. In 2011, a right-wing extremist killed 69 people on the island of Utoya after setting off a bomb in Oslo that left eight dead.

Six days before the attack, Norway's external intelligence agency, E-Tjenesten, learned from an undercover agent that a possible action was expected in a Nordic country and the information was passed to the domestic security service.

Matapour had pleaded innocent. He was examined by a court-appointed psychiatrist who concluded that he was sane at the time of the attack.

During the trial, both the prosecution and the defense agreed that Matapour fired into the crowd and there was no disagreement that the shooting was terror motivated. □



Zaniar Matapour appears in court in Oslo, Norway, March 12, 2024.

Associated Press

Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaux of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop, just to



name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment. Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down

buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer.



Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our “Dorado”

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the “Dorado”, a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means “very strong”. Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for con-



sumption. It is known among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too.

They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi

lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.


Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called “bull Dorado”.


Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others.

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).



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Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Be-



fore its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visi-

tors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge".



Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor at Marriott Aruba Ocean Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectfully honored with a certificate for her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Goodwill Ambassador
Ms. Geena Machiaverna from Chapel New Providence New Jersey, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott



Aruba Ocean Club bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented her with gifts, and thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination, as her home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Aruba's people.

- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's restaurants.
- Aruba's Activities.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for her continued visits to the "One Happy Island".

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Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to travelling parents to list off some the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the Pos Chiquito



city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach,

these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close!

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Costa Linda Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Robert & Mrs. Patricia Bonugli from Revere Massachusetts, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Costa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certifi-

cate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's beach.
- Aruba feels safe
- Aruba is a beauty.
- "Aruba is home away from home"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our

sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then



you need to switch to the left lane on the highway before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout

(left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt!



Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

Iguanas

Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba,



and this includes eating them!

Turnip-tailed gecko

The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing. The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are

harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4–5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega *Phyllodactylus Julieni* is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

Blue Kododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color.



The Aruban whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus arubensis*, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Kododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

Striped anole

The striped anole (*Anolis lineatus*) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay.



Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 More

- 1 Paul original
Bunyan's 39 Fathered
ox 40 Visitor to
5 Memo Siam
letters 41 Iowa city

9 "Skyfall"
singer

11 Put off

13 "The
Castle"
writer

14 Paris
subway

15 Sense
of self

16 Most eco-
nomical

18 Belgrade
native

20 Mardi
Gras city

21 Closes up

22 Flag
feature

23 Attempt

24 Stadium
cry

25 Ibuprofen
target

27 Gift from
parents

29 Rap's
Dr. —

30 Appends

32 Served a
sentence

34 Even
score

35 City
on the
Missouri

36 Get a goal

DOWN

1 Makes
cookies

2 Wise
sayings

3 Kate Bush
album

4 Caribou's
kin

5 Jingle
writer

6 Crystal
gazer

7 Crosby,
Stills &
Nash
album

8 Iran, once

10 With no
trouble

12 Chopper

17 Dance

19 Au

22 Went

24 School
break

25 Peripheral

26 Black

27 Whale

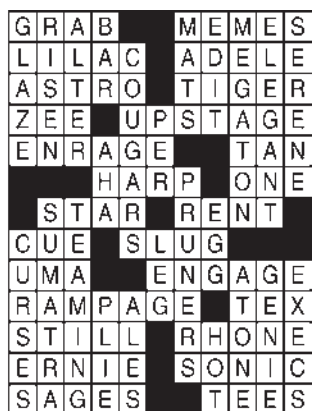
28 Evening
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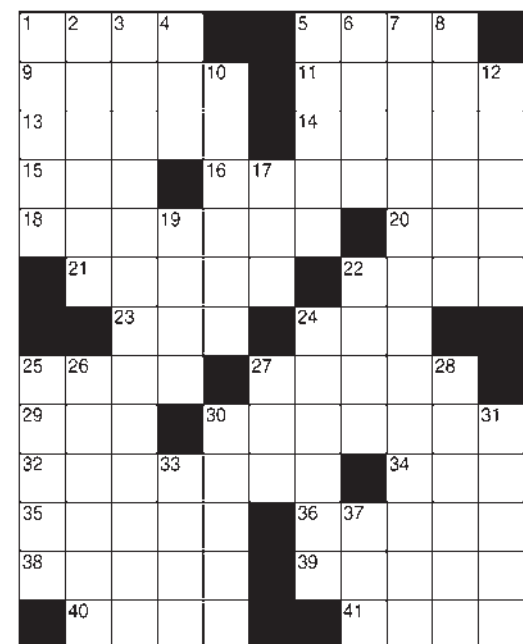
31 Is
lacking

33 Later

37 Spying
org.



Yesterday's answer



4-12

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

AQ RAM SCMRG UMQG CMB

GZQNS. AQ RAM GZQNSG UMQG

CMB SCMR. — HNM BWY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I GOT WELL BY TALKING. DEATH COULD NOT GET A WORD IN EDGEWISE, GREW DISCOURAGED, AND TRAVELED ON. — LOUISE ERDRICH. "TRACKS"

Cruise ship Schedule: July 01 - July 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	04	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	10	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	17	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	30	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

Yes, some animals can have babies without a mate. Here's how

By The Associated Press

A boa constrictor in the U.K. gave birth to 14 babies without a mate.

Is it a miracle? The result of a secret rendezvous? Probably not. Females of species have the ability to reproduce asexually, without sperm from a male. The process is called parthenogenesis, from the Greek words for "virgin" and "birth."

Some plants and insects can do it, as well as some amphibians, reptiles, birds and fish. A stingray named Charlotte that was thought to have become pregnant by this method died this week at an aquarium in North Carolina, though she never delivered and it is unclear if she was ever pregnant.

Some wasps, crustaceans and lizards reproduce only through parthenogenesis. But in other species it's rare and usually observed in captivity.

It tends to occur in situations where females are separated from males, said Demian Chapman, who directs the Sharks & Rays Conservation Research Program at the Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium in Sarasota, Florida.

The boa in the U.K., a 6-foot, 13-year-old Brazilian Rainbow Boa named Ron-

aldo, gave birth last week after having no contact with any other snakes for at least nine years, according to the City of Portsmouth College, which kept the snake.

One way parthenogenesis can occur is when a female's egg fuses with another cell, often a cell left over from a process that allows the female to create the egg. That cell, known as a polar body, gives the egg the genetic information it would normally get from sperm. The cell starts dividing and that leads to the creation of an embryo. It's unclear how prevalent parthenogenesis is in the wild, Chapman said. But it has happened outside captivity among small-tooth sawfish, an endangered species in Florida's coastal waters.

"We think the females reproduce like that on some occasions because they haven't found a male because there are so few of them," Chapman said. Offspring from parthenogenesis have less genetic variation, Chapman said, which can lead to developmental problems.

"A litter produced by sexual reproduction is usually much larger than one produced via parthenogenesis if it's an animal



Flora the Komodo dragon walks around her enclosure at Chester Zoo in Chester, England, Monday Dec. 18, 2006.
Associated Press

that gives birth to litters," Chapman said. "And you will often see individuals in that litter produced by parthenogenesis that don't develop correctly in some way." □

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Caya G.F. Betico Croes
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'Seven Samurai' at 70: Kurosawa's epic still moves like nothing else

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Akira Kurosawa's "Seven Samurai" is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. But despite its age, the vitality and fleet-footed movement of Kurosawa's epic is still breathtaking.

To watch it again is to be swept along, all over again, by its flowing action and breadth of vision. Just as swiftly as Kambei Shimada (Takashi Shimura), the noble samurai leader of the seven, sprints this way and that in the climactic battle, "Seven Samurai" moves man, does it move. It flies through rice fields and down wooded pathways. Kurosawa's camera doesn't anticipate where the action is running so much as chase headlong after it.

For many of its admirers, "Seven Samurai" has likewise been a kind of pursuit. It's not that Kurosawa's movie is so elusive it's a fairly straightforward tale that states its meaning plainly. Its mystery is more the kind reserved for a grand monument whose existence seems as unfathomable as it is undeniable.

"Seven Samurai," a



This image released by Janus Films shows Toshiro Mifune in a scene from the 1954 film "Seven Samurai."

207-minute epic about a 16th-century farm community that turns to a band of samurai to defend itself from marauding bandits, has seemed to always be here. It's about as lodged in movie canon as possible. Any beginner list for world cinema probably includes it. In the every-decade Sight and Sound poll of critics and filmmakers, it's slid slightly but not much. In 2022, it ranked No. 20, fittingly right alongside "Apocalypse Now," whose

director, Francis Ford Coppola, is one of Kurosawa's most devoted acolytes. Coppola and his contemporaries like Martin Scorsese and George Lucas worshipped Kurosawa. Scorsese once described "the shock of that level of mastery" when he encountered Kurosawa's movies in the 1950s. Later generations of filmmakers have had similar reactions. Alexander Payne called "Seven Samurai" a thunderbolt that changed his life. After

seeing it as a young man, he said to himself: "I will never climb a mountain that high but I want to be on that mountain."

"No one has come near it," the critic Pauline Kael wrote years ago a judgment that still holds.

This summer, timed to the 1954 film's 70th anniversary, a new restoration of "Seven Samurai" is playing in theaters beginning Wednesday in New York and expanding around the country July 12. It's a chance to

revisit a stone-cold classic in all its big-screen glory.

Affection, of course, isn't universal for "Seven Samurai." Some quarters of critics will always prefer Ozu or Mizoguchi. Kurosawa's appeal in the West has always been in part because he, himself, was steeped in Hollywood genre films. Kurosawa, who made "Seven Samurai" after the masterworks of "Rashomon" (1950) and "Ikiru" (1952), was influenced by John Ford's films. Westerns, in turn, took after Kurosawa's masterpiece, beginning with the 1960 John Sturges remake, "The Magnificent Seven," a film that took the American title from the initial U.S. release of "Seven Samurai," for which Toho Studios cut 50 minutes.

The long influence of "Seven Samurai" can be seen everywhere from the sideways wipe transitions of "Star Wars" to Pixar's "A Bug's Life." And, given how many movies since have taken more superficial approaches to its band-of-warriors-assemble narrative, a pessimistic view of "Seven Samurai" could lament it as a forerunner to today's spectacle-first big-budget movies. □

Associated Press

Book Review: John Quincy Adams' gives the sixth president's life the sweep and scope it deserves

By **ANDREW DeMILLO**
Associated Press

To be clear, Randall Woods' "John Quincy Adams: A Man for the Whole People" is not a leisurely read designed for the beach or airport. Clocking in at more than 700 pages, Woods' biography of the sixth president is massive in both length and scope.

But that's the type of book Adams deserves for a life and legacy that stretches well beyond his time as commander in chief and includes his years as a diplomat, senator and congressman. Readers could come away from the book feeling as though it could

have easily been a multivolume series.

Woods, a history professor at the University of Arkansas, expertly profiles a president whose life was defined by contradictions. Much like his father, Adams despised politics but spent his life entrenched in public service. His championing of the nation's expansion came at the cost of allowing the spread of slavery.

The most compelling portions of the book, in fact, focus on his years outside the White House. This includes his post-presidency years in Congress where he became an ally albeit a tenuous one of abolition-

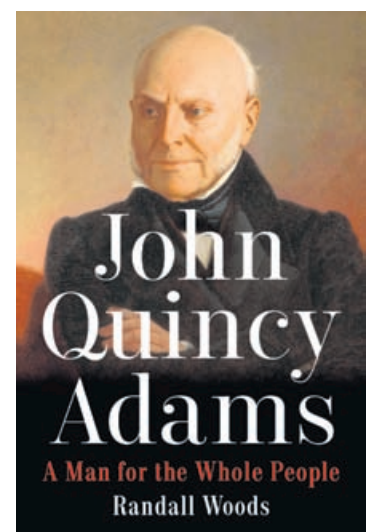
ists and an outspoken opponent of the "gag rule" in the House that prevented the discussion of slavery.

It also displays that influence that Adams' father, the nation's second president, and the other Founding Fathers had on his view of the country and public service.

The biography sheds light on Adams' relationships with figures throughout history, from Andrew Jackson to Daniel Webster. But what's even more enlightening is his personal relationships, especially with his family, as Woods demonstrates the strain that his years of service had.

Woods uses Adams' life to also tell the story of the country's evolution, and his descriptions of life in the nation's capital are some of the most entertaining. This includes a tale of Adams as president nearly drowning in the Potomac River, where he would swim regularly.

In his later years, the book describes, Adams exchanges letters with a British actor about the merits of William Shakespeare's play "Hamlet." As Woods writes, Adams "identified completely with Shakespeare's fallen angel" and viewed the play as a cautionary tale for the country. □



This book cover image released by Dutton shows "John Quincy Adams: A Man for the Whole People" by Randall Woods.

Associated Press

Novak Djokovic grinds out a victory over wild card Jacob Fearnley at Wimbledon

By KEN MAGUIRE

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Novak Djokovic says he wouldn't have been surprised if his second-round match against young Jacob Fearnley at Wimbledon went to a fifth set, but he's "very glad it didn't."

The seven-time champion at the All England Club beat his 22-year-old Scottish opponent 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5 on Centre Court on Thursday in another test of his fitness following recent knee surgery.

"Can I be playing better and moving better? Yes, absolutely," Djokovic said in an on-court interview. "So I'm hoping that as the tournament progresses each day or each match I'll be feeling a bit better."

Fearnley, a wild-card entry who recently finished playing college tennis at TCU, had a strong cheering section that erupted when he took the third set.

"He served very well, it was very difficult to break his serve. He made me work, definitely," said Djokovic, who will face Alexei Popyrin



Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a forehand return to Britain's Jacob Fearnley during their second round match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Thursday, July 4, 2024.

Associated Press

in the third round.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion said he should have closed it out in straight sets but that he "was not really comfortable in my own skin, particularly in the third and fourth."

"Sometimes you have rough days where maybe you are not feeling your

best," he added, "and of course it also depends on the opponent across the net. He made me earn this victory."

It was a big day for Britain on and off the court with the U.K. holding a national election and several locals in the spotlight.

"It's a great day for Brit-

ish tennis, and there's no better place to do it than at home at Wimbledon," Fearnley said. "Yeah, it's an unbelievable tournament, unbelievable crowd."

It got off to a rough start when wild-card entry Yuriko Lily Miyazaki won only 19 points en route to a 6-0, 6-0 loss to Daria Kasatkina.

The 28-year-old Miyazaki committed 31 unforced errors and five double-faults in falling to the No. 14-seeded Kasatkina, a Russian who won the Eastbourne title ahead of the grass-court Grand Slam.

Harriet Dart came back to beat compatriot Katie Boulter, the No. 32 seed who is Britain's highest-ranked women's singles player, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (10-8). Dart trailed 6-2 in the deciding tiebreaker. Boulter compiled 75 unforced errors and 39 winners.

Later on Centre Court, Andy Murray was set to play doubles with his brother, Jamie. The two-time Wimbledon champion pulled out of the singles competition.

Top-seeded Iga Swiatek extended her winning streak to 21 matches with her 6-4, 6-3 victory over Petra Martić.

No. 5 Jessica Pegula became the highest-seeded women's player to lose. The American was defeated by Wang Xinyu 6-4, 6-7 (7), 6-1. For Wang, it was her first victory over a top-10 player. □

Dutch sprinter Groenewegen wins Tour de France Stage 6 in a photo finish

DIJON, France (AP) —

Dutch champion Dylan Groenewegen won the sixth stage of the Tour de France after a mass sprint that was decided in a photo finish on Thursday.

Tadej Pogacar kept the yellow jersey after a nervous day on the bike amid crosswinds.

Groenewegen earned a sixth career stage victory at cycling's biggest race ahead of Biniam Girmay, the Stage 3 winner, and Fernando Gaviria, the Stage 3 runner-up. Jasper Philipsen was initially the runner-up for a second straight stage but was relegated for an irregular sprint.

"I actually don't know what happened but I was first," Groenewegen said.

There was no change among the overall leaders,

with Pogacar staying 45 seconds ahead of Remco Evenepoel. Two-time defending champion Jonas Vingegaard remained in third place, 50 seconds off the pace.

After Matthieu Van der Poel opened the sprint in the city of Dijon with an excellent lead-out for his teammate Philipsen, Groenewegen timed his effort perfectly and used his great power to prevail by just a few inches.

The fight between the main contenders for the yellow jersey is expected to resume on Friday during the race's first time trial. The 25-kilometer (16-mile) race against the clock features a climb with an average gradient of 6.1% that will put riders to the test in the final section.

Thursday's relatively short stage of 163.5 kilometers (102 miles) started from Macon, taking the peloton through the Burgundy vineyards. Early into the stage, riders rode past a giant drawing of France striker Antoine Griezmann, who was born in Macon.

Jonas Abrahamsen ignited the first move of the day to claim points in the classification for the polka-dot jersey of best climber, at the top of a short climb and went on a breakaway with Axel Zingle. The duo was caught soon after.

On long sections of roads exposed to wind, the peloton rode at a steady pace, with riders careful not to get caught in a split. About 85 kilometers (53 miles) from the finish, Vingegaard's teammates Wout van

Aert and Christophe Laporte moved to the front to speed up the pace and harden the race.

The peloton lined out and

split in two but all the main contenders managed to stay in the first group, although Pogacar found himself isolated. □



Netherlands' Dylan Groenewegen, right, sprints to the finish line to win ahead of Belgium's Arnaud de Lie, left, during the sixth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 163.5 kilometers (101.6 miles) with start in Macon and finish in Dijon, France, Thursday, July 4, 2024.

Associated Press



WIN!

Luxury Wagon

APRIL 12 - NOVEMBER 22, 2024

Must be over the age of 18 years. The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

THE CASINO AT
THE RITZ-CARLTON
ARUBA

THE CASINO AT
ST REGIS
ARUBA

WEEKLY DRAWINGS

Receive one (1) raffle ticket for every 300 points /\$150 theoretical win or with every \$150 check at Casa Nonna New York, BLT Steak or Divi Lounge.

SELECTING FINALISTS

EVERY SATURDAY TILL NOVEMBER 16TH

9:00PM - 11:00PM
Selecting 6 winners of a \$1,000 each in cash every hour.

11:30PM
Selecting one finalist for the final drawing plus \$1,500 cash.

12:00AM
Selecting 9 winners of \$500 each in slot credit.





Anticipating the grand opening of The St. Regis Aruba

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba mega campaign for 2024: WIN A MERCEDES-BENZ G-CLASS 2024!

Palm Beach—Since 2019 The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba has been known for its thrilling giveaways like the Ferrari giveaway, Mega Win campaigns with the most attractive cash prizes, exotic vacations and many more. This year, as they are preparing for the grand opening of The St. Regis Aruba, they are giving away a Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024!

All visitors of The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba have the opportunity to participate to win this amazing car by being or becoming a member of the VIP Club where they can enjoy unique benefits.

Players can accumulate their points until November 22nd, to receive raffle tickets in order to participate. Players can earn their raffle tickets as follows:

- Every 300 points on slot machines / \$150 of theoretical win on tables = 1 raffle ticket.
- Every check of \$150 at Casa Nonna New York, BLT Steak and Divi Lounge = 1 raffle ticket

There will be 50 finalists competing in the grand finale on November 22nd to be the lucky winner of the Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024! There are four ways to become a finalist:

- Weekly Drawings (every Saturday with

\$12,000 in prizes): selecting 31 finalists

- Golden Key on November 16th: selecting 2 finalists

- Top Player's Race on November 21st: selecting 9 finalists

- Last Chance Drawing on November 22nd: selecting 8 finalists

This campaign has gathered local and international attention as this is the second time that The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba raffles a high-end luxury car in the Caribbean region and gives their players the opportunity to win this unique car.

The Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024 has a boxy exterior, which is its icon-

ic charm, in addition to making a striking visual statement for its bold black exterior and lavish red interior. Once inside, you will find all the Mercedes-Benz luxury hallmarks, including red leather comfort seats and Burmester surround system which consists of 15 loudspeakers. You will find everything that you are looking for in a car with this Luxury Wagon: refinement, comfort and performance of a turbo-charged V8 engine. This luxury vehicle offers a unique experience and one player will be the lucky winner on November 22nd.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba is very proud to bring this car to

the island in anticipation of the grand opening of The St. Regis Aruba, as it reflects the luxury and high quality of The Ritz-Carlton and St. Regis brand.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba offers high quality service and offers a unique and memorable experience. For more participation details of the Luxury Wagon Campaign 2024, please visit The Casino VIP Desk at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba or contact 527-2276/ 527-2277 and they will be happy to assist you with further details on how to participate and WIN!